



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

January 17, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Non-Public School Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent

SUBJECT: Digital Learning Day 2013

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Flanagan'.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education, announces its participation as a state host in the National Digital Learning Day scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2013.

This national campaign is designed to celebrate innovative teaching and highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students, exploring how digital learning can provide all students with the opportunities they deserve - to build the skills needed to succeed in college, a career, and life.

Michigan has long placed a priority in using educational technology to enable improved student outcomes. We were the first state to require students to successfully complete an online course or learning experience as part of our state high school graduation requirement. Blended learning and online learning provide powerful alternatives for students who need greater access and flexibility in their education due to individual learning styles, employment commitments and comfort with traditional school environments.

We followed this by extending Seat Time Waivers to every public school district in Michigan so schools can realize the significant potential to expand their educational offerings by using online learning as a practical strategy to increasing opportunities for all students, especially those that need extra help staying in school and graduating.

What's more, the MDE continues the work of providing teachers and their students with access to high quality, low cost online resources. The best example of this is the Michigan Online Resources for Educators, or M.O.R.E. portal, which is part of the Michigan eLibrary (<http://mel.org/>).

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Page 2
January 17, 2013

Has your school considered participating in Digital Learning Day? We encourage every educator, parent, policymaker, and student to take a moment to visit <http://www.digitallearningday.org/registration/> and join tens of thousands of teachers who are celebrating Digital Learning Day with school-based activities, projects, and interactive lessons in math, science, civics, and language arts.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to collaborate with tens of thousands of other teachers across the nation in this massive celebration of the potential of digital learning. And thanks to technology, you won't have to leave your classroom, school building, or office. Make your voice heard; join us today and spread the word to your colleagues!

Sign up to learn more now at <http://www.digitallearningday.org/registration/>.

If you have questions, please contact Sara Hall (shall@all4ed.org) or Rachel Jones (rjones@all4ed.org) with questions. We hope to see all of Michigan's teachers participating on February 6, 2013, and beyond in this important state and national campaign.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance